Patent claims

1. An apparatus for actuating an electrical switching device having at least one moving contact piece, the at least one moving contact piece being driven via a rotating shaft (10),
characterized in that
an electric motor having a rotating drive shaft (18), which can be coupled to the rotating shaft (10) for the switching device by means of a gear mechanism, is provided for the purpose of driving the rotating shaft (10).

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in the case of multi-pole, in particular three-pole, switching devices, an electric motor is provided for the purpose of driving all of the switch poles.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in the case of multi-pole, in particular three-pole, switching devices, a separate electric motor is provided for the purpose of driving each switch pole.

4. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized
in that the central axis of the drive shaft (18) runs parallel to the central axis of the rotating shaft (10).

5. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized
in that the electric motor is in the form of a servomotor.

6. The apparatus as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized
in that the gear mechanism is in the form of a lever mechanism.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the lever mechanism is dimensioned such that a rotation of the drive shaft (18) of the electric motor through at most 180° brings about a switching operation of the switching device.

8. The apparatus as claimed in either of claims 6 and 7, characterized
in that an intermediate piece, preferably a circular disk (26), is fixed to the drive shaft (18) of the electric motor, and that end of the connecting rod (14) which faces the drive shaft (18) can be connected to said intermediate piece at at least two distances from the central axis of the drive shaft (18).

9. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized
in that the gear mechanism is in the form of a toothed belt drive.

10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the toothed belt drive has a transmission ratio of 1:1 to 1:6, preferably 1:3.5.

11. A switching device having at least one apparatus for actuating purposes as claimed in one of the preceding claims.